



Appn. No. 09/238,262

Docket No. 10191/955

Reply To Final Office Action of 09/02/03

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REMARKS

Claims 14 and 20 are canceled, and therefore claims 15-19 and 21-24 are now pending. Claims 15, 19, 21-22 and 24 are presently amended. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-18 and 20-24 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,738,757 ("Burns et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 6,033,997 ("Perng"). Additionally, claims 14-18 and 20-24 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,711,891 ("Pearce"). While Applicants do not agree with the obviousness rejections, to facilitate matters claims 15, 19 and 21-24 have been amended, so that claim 19 is in independent form, and claims 15-18 and 21-24 ultimately depend from claim 19. The Examiner has indicated that claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has also indicated that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form, including the features of canceled claims 14 and 20, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 19 is in condition for immediate allowance. As for claims 15-18 and 21-24, which depend from claim 19, and therefore include all of the features of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that 15-18 and 21-24 are also in condition for immediate allowance, as they depend from an allowable claim.

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In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all rejections and objection have been obviated, and that claims 15-19 and 21-24 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON

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